

SECRET

12 NOV 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director
(S)National Reconnaissance Program
SUBJECT: Advanced Aircraft Funding

1. Your memorandum to Colonel Ledford of 14 August 1964 relative to FY 1965 program approvals indicates that [] FY 1964 carry-over against advance aircraft studies would be directed against other approved items, specifically countermeasures.

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2. This is contrary to the agreement you reached in the presence of a dozen CIA and NRO personnel at the meeting here at Langley on 15 June [] and the advanced aircraft program. The OSA group then presented a persuasive case, based on aircraft vulnerability analyses, that a Mach 5-6 aircraft would make little improvement over the present OXCART vehicle and that one would have to develop much higher performance to alter the vulnerability picture significantly. The OSA group stated that they then had no valid line of development to which they were prepared to commit Government funds before the end of FY 1964, and requested that the money be carried over into FY 1965 as a working account for promising new approaches. It was the impression of all those present that you agreed to this course of action as a prudent and constructive step. On this basis of carry-over funding, we have not yet requested release of FY 1965 funds for this program. If those funds are not now available, we must insist on comparable

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Page 2

interim funding from FY 1965 pending clarification of this matter. I am directing Colonel Ledford to suspend action on that portion of your 14 August memorandum which deals with this subject.

3. You will be interested to know that the OSA group has recently begun to be quite optimistic about the possibility of creating a vastly improved manned reconnaissance capability. Their approach has been quite conservative and has thus far involved no expenditure of Government funds. However, it does look as though our expanding technology has now provided us with another opportunity for making a major advance in this field, and I am sure that you will be interested to hear about it in the next month or so.

ALBERT D. WHEELON
Deputy Director

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cc: DCI
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12 SEP 1964

12 SEP 1964

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